

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claims 1, 31 and 40 as indicated in the LIST OF pending claims as follow:

**PENDING CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended): An elongated tissue removing device, comprising:
  - a. an elongate shaft which has proximal and distal shaft sections, a distal end and a tissue penetrating tip at the distal end configured to form a passageway to a location from which tissue is to be removed;
  - b. a tissue cutting element which is on the distal shaft section proximal to the distal end and which is configured to separate a tissue mass having larger transverse dimensions than the passageway formed by the tissue penetrating tip;
  - c. at least one tissue securing member which is on the distal shaft section and which is configured for securing the separated tissue mass to the distal shaft section; and
  - d. a tissue expander on the distal shaft section which is proximal to the at least one tissue securing member and which has an expanded configuration with a transverse dimension greater than transverse dimensions of the separated tissue mass to facilitate removal of the secured separated tissue mass through the passageway.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein the tissue expander comprises an inflatable balloon.

4. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 3, wherein the inflatable balloon is attached to the distal shaft section proximal of the at least securing member.

5. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of inflatable balloons.

6. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 5, wherein at least one of said inflatable balloons is attached to said elongate shaft proximal of said at least one tissue securing member.

7. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 6, wherein at least one of said plurality of inflatable balloons is attached to said elongate shaft distal of said at least one tissue securing member.

8. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of expandable members.

9. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise longitudinally-oriented expandable members.

10. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise circumferentially-oriented expandable members.

11. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise spirally-oriented expandable members.

12. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise a mesh.

13. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members have at least one end connected to said elongated shaft.

14. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members have two ends, and each end is connected to said elongated shaft.

15. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, further comprising a rotatable shaft configured to effect expansion of said expandable members upon rotation of said shaft.

16. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 8, wherein said expandable members comprise a plurality of expansion surfaces having inner and outer surfaces, said outer surfaces being configured to contact tissue, said inner surfaces being configured to slidably enclose at least a portion of said elongate shaft.

17. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 16, wherein said plurality of expansion surfaces comprises a pair of expansion surfaces.

18. (Previously presented): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 1, wherein the at least one tissue securing member includes an anchoring member.

19. (Withdrawn): The elongated tissue removing device of claim 18, wherein said anchoring member comprises an elongated anchor element configured to deploy into tissue.

20-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended): A tissue removing kit, comprising:

a package;

a tissue securing device which is disposed in the package, which has an elongate shaft with a distal tip, which has a tissue cutting member on a distal section of the shaft proximal to the distal tip for separating a tissue mass and which has at least one tissue securing member on the distal shaft section proximal to the distal tip for securing a separated -tissue mass on ~~[[a]]~~ the distal shaft section; and

a tissue dilation member which is disposed in the package and which is configured for deployment proximal to the tissue securing member for dilating a path within a patient's body sufficiently to facilitate passage of the separated tissue mass therethrough.

32. (Withdrawn): The tissue removing kit of claim 31, wherein said tissue dilation member comprises an inflatable balloon.

33-39. (Cancelled)

40. (Currently Amended): A biopsy device comprising:

a. an elongate shaft which has proximal and distal shaft sections and a distal tip;

b. a cutting member on the distal shaft section proximal to the distal tip configured to separate a tissue mass;

c. at least one tissue securing member proximal to the distal tip for securing a separated tissue mass on the distal shaft section; and

d. a tissue expander on the elongate shaft proximal to the at least one tissue securing member to facilitate removal of the secured separated tissue mass.

41. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises an inflatable balloon.

42. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises a plurality of inflatable balloons.

43. (Withdrawn): The biopsy device of claim 40, wherein said tissue expander comprises an expandable member.

44. (Cancelled)